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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the FDA's Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food," and the proposal that will allow manufacturers to sell irradiated food under the heading of "cold pasteurization." I am strongly opposed to such a move, which will eliminate any labeling requirements that warn consumers of the dangers of buying and eating food that is irradiated. Food treated with radiation must continue to be labeled clearly with the radura, (international symbol for irradiated food) and contain a visible statement indicating that it was treated with radiation. The absence of such a statement is extremely misleading since radiation destroys vitamins, and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that may not be noticed by the consumer.

Irradiation also creates a new class of radiolytic products that have never been tested for possible carcinogenic effects on humans, as well as creating new volumes of radioactive waste from Cobalt-60 and Cesium. The threats of cancer and exposure to toxic radionuclides, at a time when the nation does not know what to do with current nuclear waste levels, are very serious and should be avoided at all costs. Therefore, it is crucial for the FDA to retain clear labels for irradiated food, labels which state "irradiation" or "irradiated" on the product. The proposed labels of "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" are extremely misleading to the uninformed consumer. I myself know that I would not purchase irradiated food and thus would want the accurate labeling of such food, and I am sure that the majority of consumers feel the same way.

I urge that Congress and the FDA take action on this issue and force the continued labeling of irradiated food. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Les Chuang  
GRACE

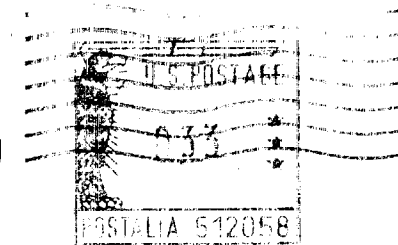
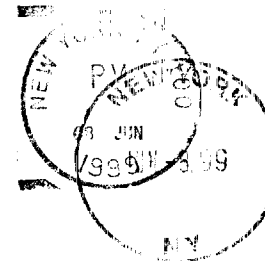
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GRACE

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